

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 CU-04 GAC-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 INRE-00 /087 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1251

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS : PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REACTION TO NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT

REF: THE HAGUE 2076

1. SUMMARY: DEN UYL GOVT MEANS SIGNIFICANT SHIFT TO LEFT FROM A CENTER RIGHT BASE (BIESHEUVEL COALITION). IN FIELDS OF POLICY COORDINATION (DEN UYL), FOREIGN AFFAIRS (VAN DER STOEL) AND DEFENSE (VREDELING), USG WILL BE DEALING WITH MODERATE AND CAPABLE MEN WHOM IT KNOWS WELL AND WHO, IN TERMS US INTERESTS, REPRESENT BEST LEFT WING LEADERS WE COULD HAVE HOPED FOR IN THESE AREAS. NEWCOMERS IN CHARGE ECONOMIC POLICY (37- YEAR OLD DUISENBERG, FINANCE AND 34 YEAR OLD LUBBERS, ECONOMIC AFFS) SHOULD TAKE CUES FROM MORE EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES, AT LEAST AT OUTSET. NEW GOVT WILL BE UNDER STRONG LEFT WING PRESSURE TO PROVE ITSELF TRULY " PROGRESSIVE". SINCE NEW GOVT DEPENDENT ON MODERATE RELIGIOUS PARTYSSUPPORT, HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE NEW GOVT' S LEFT WING BARK WILL BE BIGGER THAN ITS BITE. DEALING WITH NEW GOVT MAY SELL POSE PROBLEMS PREVIOUSLY UNENCOUNTERED IN US- GON RELATIONSHIP, E. G., GREEK REGIME,
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BUT WE WOULD HOPE THESE WILL PROVE SOLUBLE OR MANAGEABLE.
GIVEN INCREASING RADICALIZATION OF DUTCH LEFT COMPOSITION
OF NEW DEN UYL GOVT IS NOT BAD AND COULD HAVE BEEN
APPRECIABLY WORSE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON DEN UYL CABINET
WHICH SCHEDULED TAKE OFFICE LATE THIS WEEK. MOST NOTABLE
CHARACTERISTIC OF NEW CABINET IS LACK OF EXPERIENCE. ONLY
THREE OF ITS MEMBERS HAVE SERVED AS MINISTERS (DEN UYL,
BOERSMA AND VAN AGT) AND TWO AS STATE SECRETARIES (WESTERTEP
AND VAN DER STOEL), AND ALL FOR LESS THAN TWO YEARS. THE YOUNG
MINISTERS OF FINANCE (DUISENBERG, 37) AND ECONOMIC AFFS
(LUBBERS, 34) HAVE NOT GOVT EXPERIENCE. THE 33- YEAR OLD
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (PRANK, A LEADER GRANTEE DESIGNEE)
HAS BEEN A PARLIAMENTARIAN FOR TWO YEARS.

3. THE NEW PM, FONMIN AND DEFENSE MINISTER ARE THE LABOR
PARTY' S MOST EXPERIENCED AND MODERATE MEMBERS. ALL ARE
WELL KNOWN TO AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS. BOTH NEW PM AND
DEFMIN ARE FORMER LEADER GRANTEES. WITH LABOR INCUMBENTS
IN PM, FONMIN, DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AND D'66
AND LABOR STATE SECRETARIES EXPECTED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
LEFT WING WILL HAVE VIRTUALLY TOTAL CONTROL OVER GON FOREIGN
AND DEFENSE POLICY.

4. CABINET IS EXTREMELY HETERONGENEOUS COMBINATION OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF MODERATE AND RIGHT WING OF LABOR PARTY
(EXCEPT FOR PRONK) AND LEFT WING CONFSSIONALS (EXCEPT FOR
BROUWER AND WESTERTEP). THERE IS ALMOST NO ENTHUSIASM FOR
CABINET AS CONSTITUTED IN ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES.

5. NEW MINISTERS OF FINANCE (DUISENBERG) AND ECONOMIC AFFS (LUBBERS)
HAVE STRONG TECHNICAL COMPETENCE BUT NO POLITICAL EXPERIENCE. THUS
DEN UYL (A FORMER MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFS) ASSISTED BY
VAN DER STOEL (WHO HAS MADE CLEAR HIS INTENTION OF ACTIVELY
PARTICIPATING IN FORMULATION INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
AND DEFENSE POLICY) CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY FAR GREATER ROLE
IN AREA OF ECONOMIC POLICY THAN PM BIESHEUVEL WHO HAD FIRST
RATE TEAM OF NELISSEN AND LANGMAN. CONTINUATION OF BOERSMA
IN SOCIAL AFFS WILL HELP NEW GOVT GET OFF ON RIGHT FOOT WITH
UNIONS.

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6. KVP WATCHMAN IN CABINET WESTERTEP (ALSO LEADER GRANTEE)
HAS BEEN GIVEN UNPOPULAR TRAFFIC AND WATERWAYS MINISTRY FOR
WHICH HE NOT ESPECIALLY QUALIFIED. WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED
SEE HIM IN MINISTRY OF GREATER RELEVANCE TO US POLICY OBJECTIVES.

7. AGRICULTURE MINISTER BROUWER IS KVP WAR HORSE AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE HE WILL TAKE RADICALLY DIFFERENT VIEW ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US THAN HIS KVP PREDECESSOR LARFINOIS. WITH VAN AGT STAYING ON AT JUSTICE, ANNEKE GOUDSMIT OF D'66 AS HIS STATE SECRETARY, LABOR TAKING KVP' S PLACE AT HEALTH, AND A RADICAL MOVING INTO KVP SPOT AT CULTURE, WE ANTICIPATE POSSIBILITY OF MORE LENIENT MEASURES BEING APPLIED TO USERS OF DRUGS, PARTICULARLY SOFT DRUGS. MIDDENDORF

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